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ON THE

MORTALITY of the SMALL-POX.

WITH A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

OF THE

EFFECTS

OF

Variolous and Vaccine Inoculation.

RUEN, T.

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§ 1. *On the Mortality occasioned by the Natural Small-pox.*

An attempt to appreciate the importance of the Vaccine Inoculation, without being fully aware of the extent of the evil it is calculated to subdue, would be vain and illusory. Of this evil, history furnishes ample records; but they are so dispersed in different publications, that very few readers are aware of their aggregate amount; and although the personal knowledge of almost every individual can furnish him with no trifling information on this subject, yet still it is pretty clear, that the desolating power of the disorder is known but to very few.

In 1520, when the Small-pox first visited New Spain, it is said to have proved fatal to *one half* of the inhabitants in those provinces where it made its appearance. In the province of Quito alone, it destroyed no less than *one hundred thousand.* (Woodville on Small-pox, p. 27.)

On its introduction into Greenland, in 1733, it almost depopulated the whole country; and even so lately as the year 1793, when the small-pox was conveyed to the Isle of France, by a Dutch ship, *five thousand four hundred* persons perished with it there in *six* weeks. (Ibid.)

Swan and Son, printers, 76, Fleet Street.

Some years ago, it made its appearance amongst a tribe of Esquimaux Indians on the coast of Labrador, and raged with unprecedented violence. Many of the natives fled to avoid the contagion, nor did they venture to return till three years had elapsed, when their country had become a desart; but they found *the skeletons of five hundred* persons who had fallen victims to the horrible disorder. (Ring's Treatise on the Cow-pox, p. 604.)

Dr. Cappe, of York, says it appears, by the London Bills of Mortality for seventy-five years, ending in the year 1777, that more than *two thousand and twenty* have been swept off by the small-pox *annually*. The total amount in that period was *one hundred and fifty-one thousand five hundred and seventy*. In 1777, the number was *two thousand five hundred and sixty-seven:* in 1779, *two thousand four hundred and ninety-three:* in 1781, *three thousand five hundred:* in 1787, *two thousand four hundred and eighteen:* in 1793, *two thousand three hundred and eighty-one:* in 1796, *three thousand five hundred and forty-eight:* in 1798, *two thousand two hundred and thirty-seven:* in 1799, *one thousand one hundred and eleven:* in 1800, it increased to *two thousand four hundred:* in 1801, it was *one thousand four hundred and sixty-one:* and in 1802, *one thousand five hundred and seventy-nine.* (Ibid. 360, 605, 1030.)

It also appears that, when the number of births in London was on an average about *sixteen thousand two hundred and ninety-one*, the number of those who died of the small-pox was about *two thousand four hundred and forty-four*, so that there were *two deaths* by the small-pox alone for every *thirteen births*. In Liverpool the mortality has been still greater, for there the proportion has been *two to eleven*, (ibid. 361); and about the same proportion in Manchester, according to Dr. Percival.

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Dr. Blane stated, in evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, (Report, p. 32,) that the deaths from the small-pox were, on an average, nearly *one-tenth* of the whole mortality: that it appears by the Bills of Mortality, about *two thousand die annually* of it in London; but the number must in fact be much greater, as these Bills do not comprehend the whole of the metropolis.—One parish not included in them, viz. Marylebone, contains no less than sixty-three thousand inhabitants: another parish not included is Pancras, in which is the Small-pox Hospital; and it is estimated, that the whole number not reckoned is one hundred and seventeen thousand eight hundred and two, (Report, 33, &c.) In addition to which may be mentioned, that six or seven thousand persons are annually interred in the burying grounds of the Dissenters. (Ring, 605.)—The total number in the United Kingdom would be, according to Dr. Blane's calculation, about *thirty-four thousand two hundred and sixty;* but, at the same time, he says this is *under* the truth. It is supposed that the real number is not less than *forty-five thousand.*

Dr. Bradley supposes that, on an average of the whole world, *one in one hundred and fifty* dies of the inoculated small-pox. (Report, p. 21.)

Mr. Ring, from whose steady and uniform exertions in the cause of vaccination mankind have derived such advantages, stated in evidence, (ibid. p. 49,) as his opinion, that *one dies in every hundred* inoculated in London, from the unwholesomeness of the atmosphere, and *the frequent necessity of inoculating children at an improper age.*

Dr. Willan gives a strong instance of the fatality of this horrible disease.—A child was inoculated in April, 1798, whose parents kept a shop, in a court consisting of

about twenty houses; as the poor daily resorted thither, seventeen persons caught the small-pox in the natural way, and *no fewer than eight of them died.* (Ring, 867.)

The Rev. Dr. Booker, of Dudley, in a communication made to the Royal Jennerian Society, at the Third Anniversary, May 17, 1805, says, that, in his parish, which contains fourteen thousand persons, he has frequently buried, *day after day*, several who died of the small-pox, (once as many as eight;) but adds that, in the course of *four years* after the introduction of vaccine inoculation, *only two* had fallen victims to that dreadful disorder.

The Rev. Wm. Finch, of St. Helens, Lancashire, also says, (Report, p. 164,) that, at the close and beginning of the years he had resided there, he has sometimes interred, on the same day, two or three children of a family who died of it; and he declared that, since vaccination has been adopted, he has not had the sorrowful duty to perform of burying *one* that died of the small-pox.

At Edinburgh, according to Dr. Munro, the proportion of deaths, by the small-pox, was *one-tenth* of the whole mortality. (Ring, 376.)

Dr. Odier, of Geneva, calculates that, from the year 1661 to 1772, *two million five hundred and thirty-eight thousand four hundred and fifty persons* died in London, of whom *one hundred and thirty-nine thousand four hundred and thirty-two*, or *one in fourteen*, died by the small-pox; but, from what has been before remarked respecting the Bills of Mortality, it is very probable that the aggregate number was greater. In the same space of time, *seventy-six thousand* died at Geneva, of whom *three thousand nine hundred and seventy-two*, or about *one in twenty*, fell victims to small-pox. At the Hague, from 1755 to 1769, they amounted to above *one in thirteen.* (Ring, 376.)

It is calculated that *one in fourteen* is the proportion in France between the total number of deaths and those by the small-pox. (Ibid. 700.)—According to Dr. Colon, from *sixty to seventy thousand fall annually* by the disease. (Ibid. 928.)—So lately as the year 1799, *fifteen thousand* perished in Paris alone, (ibid. 929); and Dr. Moreau says, that, in one particular year, no *less than twenty thousand* died of it. (Ibid. 785.)

By a report of the Central Committee at Paris, made Nov. 24, 1802, it appears that, in the four succeeding months, out of *five thousand four hundred and sixty-three* who died, *one thousand four hundred and seventeen*, or *upwards of one-fourth*, died by the small-pox; and that, in those parts of the city where it principally raged, no fewer than *nine hundred and twenty-three deaths* out of *two thousand six hundred and eighty-one*, or *above one-third*, were occasioned by it.

In Rome, *six thousand* persons perished by the small-pox in *six* months. (Ring, 931.)—In Naples, *sixteen thousand* in *one year*, (ibid. 785); and *eight thousand* died at Palermo, in Sicily, the year only before Dr. Marshal visited it. (Report, 66.)

The mortality occasioned by the natural small-pox in India has been immense; it has been said no less than *one out of three die of it.* The Bramins who practice inoculation aver, that they do not lose above *one in two hundred* by inoculation; but there are abundant reasons for disbelieving this interested statement. It seems that the inoculated small-pox is more severely felt, in India, amongst children born there of European parents, than in Europe, since it is fatal to *one in sixty or seventy;* and the terror and anxiety felt, during the months in which the disease prevails, are inexpressible. (Shoolbred's Report of the Progress of Vaccination in Bengal, p. 19.)

In Bombay, the casualties, including "blindness, suppurations about the joints, disordered livers, dysentery, affections of the mesenteric glands, dyspnœa, &c." have been estimated at *one in forty or fifty.* (Bombay Account of the Introduction of the Cow-pox into India, p. 81.)

Captain Turner, in the account of his embassy to Thibet, draws a melancholy picture of the ravages of the small-pox, and its dreadful consequences. Its fatality is so well known, and so seriously apprehended, that whenever it appears, those who are not attacked, immediately abandon their habitations, and leave the miserable victims to perish. He says, he has seen many villages thus deserted; and that the capital once remained *three years without inhabitants,* who did not return till it was supposed to be purged from the pestilence.

Percival, in his account of the island of Ceylon, says, the small-pox is a disease which particularly excites apprehension among the natives, for they look upon it as the immediate instrument of God's vengeance; and therefore do not venture to use any charms against it, as they are accustomed to do in other disorders. If any one dies of it he is looked upon as accursed, and his body is even denied the rites of burial: it is carried out to some unfrequented place, and there left, with branches of trees scattered over it. Mr. Christie, the chief of the medical staff at Ceylon, in a letter to Sir Walter Farquhar, dated Columbo, Nov. 19, 1802, says, that even its very appearance was often sufficient to depopulate whole villages, as it was not uncommon, in the remote parts of the country, for the whole of the inhabitants of a village to desert their houses on its breaking out, leaving their unfortunate friends either to perish by the disorder, by famine, or by the wild beasts which abounded in those parts; and of one melancholy instance of this sort Mr. Christie was himself a witness. Inoculation for the

small-pox was introduced there in 1800, and these dreadful evils somewhat assuaged; but Mr. Christie says, that even then, notwithstanding the utmost care of the medical men, they lost somewhat above the proportion of *one in one hundred* from the inoculated small-pox, while of those who caught it naturally *almost one-third died.* It was, therefore, with the greatest gratitude that vaccination was received, when introduced under the auspices of the governor, the Hon. Mr. North; and through the successful exertions of Mr. Christie, and other medical gentlemen, it was practised with such enthusiasm, that upwards of *seven thousand* persons were vaccinated in less than *three* months, and the happiest results have followed.

In the Russian empire, it is said to have been so malignant, as sometimes to have destroyed not much fewer than *two millions in one year:* (Woodville, p. 292)—and Guthrie (p. 123) thinks it not improbable, that the great population of these regions, which formerly enabled them to pour such immense numbers over Europe, has been greatly lessened by this disorder.

At Constantinople, before the adoption of inoculation, even *one half* of those infected have not unfrequently died. (Woodville, p. 66.)

Dr. Macdonald, of Hamburgh, calculates that the small-pox proves fatal to *forty millions every century;* Dr. Lettsom, that *two hundred and ten thousand* fall victims *annually* to it in Europe; while Dr. Sacco, of Milan, conceives, that not less than *fifteen millions* are carried off by it every *twenty-five years,* or *six hundred thousand annually.*

Not only is it universal in its depredations, but its approach is so insidious, as to render it almost impossible

to be avoided. It has been ascertained, that the small-pox has been imported more than *one hundred times* in *seven years* into the Channel; and *twenty times* in about *six months*, in the year 1800, by the grand fleet alone. (Address of the Physicians and Surgeons of the Navy—Ring, 687.)

Independently of the dreadful mortality thus occasioned by this horrid pestilence, the evils it frequently leaves behind are of the most distressing nature. Mr. Moore, in his excellent pamphlet, (A Reply to the Anti-vaccinists, 1806, p. 66,) after remarking that the numbers who suffer blindness from it are very considerable, refers to the institution in the Borough for instructing the indigent blind, *no less than three-fourths of whom*, adds he, *have lost their sight by the small-pox!* He adds (p. 64), that when a human being is once affected with it, the poison cannot be destroyed; and (p. 66) that notwithstanding the mitigation of the disease by inoculation, and the present improved state of medicine, it very considerably diminishes population, afflicts a portion of the remainder with blindness, and excites scrofula.

This is corroborated by the evidence of the most eminent practitioners; and Dr. Beddoes has drawn a most animated, but horrid picture of this dreadful disorder, in "The Rules of the extended Medical Institution for the Benefit of the sick and drooping Poor."

The grave itself destroys not the contagious principles of the small-pox, of which many well authenticated proofs could be added.

§ 2. *On the Effects of Small-pox Inoculation.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the *apparent* good effects of inoculating for the small-pox, experience has proved, that in-

stead of mitigating, it has actually extended the evil: for, although the *proportion* of those who die by it, out of a certain number infected, is less than before its adoption, yet the *actual number* carried off by it is greater. The cause of this is obvious: while the small-pox was more fatal in appearance, caution was alive, and, whenever the disorder appeared, it carried such terrors with it, that communication was cut off as much as was practicable, and every house shunned as a pest-house where its effects were so visible. A plague that carried off one-third, or one-fourth, of those it attacked, it was natural to fly from; but when, by the introduction of inoculation and an improved mode of treatment, it happened to be fatal to one only in a hundred, it gradually became disregarded, the horror which before attached to it vanished, as the same consequences did not ensue, and the spreading the infection was no longer considered as so great an evil. Lady Wortley Montague, in one of her letters remarks, "Every year thousands undergo this operation; and the French ambassador says, pleasantly, that they take the small-pox here by way of diversion, as they take the waters in other countries." Contagion, in consequence, spread widely around, and the world little regarded what would have appeared to them as a paradox, but which, however, may be easily explained. Suppose in a certain district, containing *ten thousand* inhabitants, *fifty* persons should catch the small-pox, and there the infection should be staid; according to the best calculations, it is probable *one-tenth*, or *five* persons would die. Suppose now, when the contagion is less regarded, the disorder should break out, and an extensive inoculation should follow as a remedy for the consequences; *one thousand*, or *one thousand two hundred*, might possibly undergo the disorder, and in such case *seven* or *eight* would probably die; so that in the latter case a *greater number* would actually fall victims, although the proportion of deaths was only *one* out of *one hundred and fifty*, while in the

former case it was *one* out of *ten!* This reasoning is substantiated by evidence: Dr. Lettsom delivered in to the Committee of the House of Commons (Report, p. 85, 147) a statement from the yearly Bills of Mortality, by which it appears, that in *forty-two* years, between 1667 and 1722, the average number of deaths occasioned by the small-pox was, to the whole number who died, as *seventy-two* to *one thousand;* but that in *forty-two* years after inoculation was in full use, viz. from 1731 to 1772, the proportion was no less than *eighty-nine* in *one thousand, being an increase of nearly one-fourth!*

Dr. Blane mentioned (p. 32) a calculation of Dr. Heberden, making the numbers who died of it, in the last *thirty* years of the late century, *ninety-five* in *one thousand;* while in the first *thirty* years the proportion was only *seventy* in *one thousand.* Dr. Blane adds, that this is perhaps much more strongly exemplified in the country than in London; for there were certain districts into which the small-pox, previously to the introduction of inoculation, was unknown for *twenty*, *thirty*, or *forty* years, so that great numbers had died without ever having had it; but now, for the reasons above adduced, and from the extended communication between the most distant parts of the kingdom, an adult who has not had the small-pox is hardly to be found.

§ 3. *On the Discovery, Extension, and beneficial Effects of Cow-pox Inoculation.*

Dr. Jenner's enquiries into the nature of the cow-pox commenced about the year 1771, (Report, p. 1.) His first experiment on a human subject, made after the minutest investigation into the disorder, was in the spring of 1796; and his discovery was published to the world by his "Enquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ," in June 1798: a discovery which will

confer immortal honour on the discoverer, and the country in which it had birth!!!

The surprise it occasioned was quickly followed by a conviction of its value and importance. Experiments, made and repeated under every disadvantage, pronounced the truth of what the discoverer had predicted, and it speedily diffused itself over the continent of Europe.

France, in particular, forgetting national jealousy and individual envy, accepted the boon with candour and alacrity. Institutions and societies were formed for its extension, under the sanction of the government; rewards were bestowed on the most active vaccinists, and such a progress was made, that, even so early as November 1802, the central committee, in their annual report, declare, that there has not been one example to prove, that amongst *ten thousand* individuals inoculated with the cow-pox, a single one has been infected with the small-pox, though being in the midst of the contagion. In a following report they declare, that all which has been asserted of vaccination is now confirmed; that they are perfectly convinced of the reality of the advantages ascribed to it; and that they cannot conclude without returning "a just tribute of acknowledgment to Dr. Jenner, being fully persuaded that he will hereafter be remembered among those who have reflected the greatest honour on science, and rendered the most important service to mankind." In their report of the year 12 (1804), they say, that the success of vaccination is established by them in *one hundred thousand* facts. Since which upwards of *sixty thousand* have been inoculated in *three months only*. (Medical and Physical Journal, May 1805, p. 419.)

In the summer of 1800, Dr. Marshal and Dr. Walker (Report, p. 64,) left England, for the express purpose of

introducing the cow-pox into the Mediterranean. They began at Gibraltar, where the practice underwent a severe trial, the garrison then living on salt provisions, in consequence of the plague having stopped the supplies from Barbary; and the thermometer frequently standing 90 deg. Notwithstanding this, the *soldiers under vaccination performed their regimental duties as usual;* not one case occurred where medicine was required, nor was any application requisite to the inoculated part.

Proceeding along the Mediterranean, the practice was introduced at Malta, where, it seems, the ravages by small-pox had always been dreadful. Here an hospital was established by the governor, called the *Jennerian Institution.* At the time Dr. Marshal was at Malta, the armament there consisted of one hundred king's ships, and about the same number of transports, on board of which a large army was embarked. Mr. Ring justly remarks (p. 567), should the small-pox happen to rage through such a fleet, in such a latitude, what havoc must ensue! It was received with enthusiasm in Sicily, where the small-pox had been, if possible, more fatal than at Malta. Hospitals were established at Palermo and also at Naples, and the salutary effects of the Jennerian discovery were soon felt over the whole of Italy. In the Italian republic alone, Dr. Sacco and others had vaccinated upwards of *seventy thousand*, by the end of the year 1802, (Ring, 1011)—and this number has since increased, under that active inoculator, to *four hundred thousand.* The number inoculated under Dr. Marshal's immediate direction was upwards of *ten thousand; about two thousand of whom were afterwards subjected to every possible means of infection by small-pox, but without effect.* (Report, p. 68.)

In the year 1801, it was introduced into Russia. The court was at Moscow, on account of the coronation of the

emperor, and the child who was first inoculated was patronised by that exalted and truly philanthropic personage the Empress Dowager, who named her VACCINOFF, sent her in one of her own coaches to Petersburg, to be placed in the Foundling Hospital as a source of future inoculations, and settled on her a pension for life. Her majesty likewise transmitted, through the hands of Lord St. Helens, a valuable diamond ring to Dr. Jenner, accompanied by a very flattering letter written by her own hand. This has been followed by the adoption of vaccination throughout the extensive Russian dominions. The nobles having themselves inoculated many thousands of their peasants with their own hands. (Ring, 1009.)

It is said, that the inoculation for the *small-pox* was introduced into Germany through Hanover; and it is an extraordinary coincidence that through Hanover likewise was the *vaccine* transmitted. (Ibid. 545.)

Dr. Davids introduced it into Holland, where, he says, "the name of Jenner is adored," at a moment when the small-pox was making its ravages on every side, yet not one of those who had undergone the inoculation of the cow-pox received infection. Dr. D. felt so much interested in it as to translate Dr. Jenner's Treatise.

The King of Prussia was the first crowned head who had the vaccine inoculation performed on his own children. He established a vaccine institution in the capital of each part of his dominions, and appointed Dr. Bremer, of Berlin, physician to the institution in that city, with a salary suitable to the situation. (Ring's Answer to Mosely, 156.)

Vaccination was introduced into the Austrian dominions by Dr. de Carro, of Vienna, who adopted and pursu-

ed the practice with the most ardent zeal, and his beneficent endeavours were completely crowned with success.

Dr. Portenschlag, of that place, had his infant daughter inoculated by Dr. de Carro four hours and a half after her birth, and she was immediately christened Mary Elizabeth Vaccinia. Dr. de Carro suggests, that the thus including christening and vaccination in one ceremony would soon eradicate the small-pox. This excellent idea also struck the celebrated Dr. Darwin, who, from opposing the practice at its commencement, became, before the year 1802, one of its warmest supporters.

In Bohemia, the number vaccinated in the year 1801 was *one thousand nine hundred and twenty*, and in 1802 *eight thousand one hundred and eighty.*

In Livonia *fifteen thousand seven hundred* were vaccinated through the exertions of Dr. Huhn.

In the two Gallicias, no less than *sixty-five thousand two hundred and fifty-eight* persons were vaccinated in *six months.*

In the dominions of the Elector of Saltzburgh, the number vaccinated amounted in the year 1803 to *three thousand three hundred and thirty-two.*

In the Dukedom of Mecklenburgh, up to the year 1804, *four thousand.*

Its fame soon reached India. On the 14th of June, 1802, Dr. Scott inoculated a healthy child of three years old, from whom emanated the virus that so soon pervaded the whole of India; and the number inoculated up to December 1803, was *eleven thousand one hundred and sixty-six.* (Shoolbred, 3, 15.)—Since that time, its exten-

sion has been so great and rapid over that vast peninsula, that the total number of the vaccinated is estimated at no less than *eight hundred thousand*, and it has even triumphed over the religious principles of the inhabitants, for, contrary to expectation, the Brahmins objected to it, though proceeding from the sacred cow; and a practitioner of *Errode* was, for a time, impeded in his progress by an old woman, who attempted to persuade the people that this was to be a means of enslaving them, and that they would be known by the mark in the arm, which she termed "the Company's chop."—Dowlut Row Scindia, the chief of the Mahratta empire, has had one of his own children vaccinated, which cannot fail greatly to accelerate the progress among the natives.

In the beginning of the year 1799, Dr. Waterhouse, who, from his exertions in the cause, has been honoured with the title of "the Jenner of America," received a copy of Dr. Jenner's Treatise. Struck with the importance of the subject, and the incalculable benefit which might accrue to his country from its adoption, he immediately communicated to the public a sketch of the discovery, which was most favourably received by the then president, Mr. Adams. Dr. Waterhouse first inoculated four of his own children. The succeeding president, Mr. Jefferson, gave the practice his utmost assistance, and it has been widely extended, not only through the United States, but amongst the Indians, who have received it as a blessing from Heaven. (Waterhouse's Hist. of the Prospect of exterminating the Small-pox, in Hist. of the Kine Pock, 1st Pt. 1800, 2d Pt. 1802.)

The natural small-pox, which almost every year desolated Mexico and Peru, has lost its malignity to such a degree, through the practice of vaccination, *that the number of children who fall victims to it is reduced in the proportion of nine to one.* (Medical and Physical Journal, Ap. 1806.)

The celerity with which inoculation has made its way, in countries so opposite in manners and customs*, could only be occasioned by its simplicity and the uniform success attending it. Failures, in a few instances, would have been sufficient to have checked, if not entirely prevented, its extension; and professional pride would have combined with national prejudice and rivalry to consign it to eternal oblivion.

That vaccination will ultimately cause the extermination of the small-pox, and that the period might be accelerated with a little exertion, the following facts, particularly those which have occurred at Vienna, tend strongly to prove.

"Vaccine inoculation is universally adopted through-

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* By recent accounts from Canton we find, that the vaccine inoculation has been lately introduced there. A book in the Chinese language, we believe *the first British work that ever issued from a Chinese press*, has been published upon the subject, in order to promote the knowledge of the discovery. A copy of the work has just arrived in this country, with a sight of which we have been favoured by a gentleman, from whose remarks we cannot help making a short extract. He says, "the curiosity of an English work issuing from the Chinese press, however extraordinary, gives way to the more extraordinary facility with which this people, always strenuous in opposing every innovation, has submitted to receive the new practice of vaccination. Not only the surgeon of the English factory, but numbers of Chinese, were constantly employed in communicating the disease, from the moment it was perceived with what ease and convenience the patient went through it; and they had actually raised a very considerable subscription for the purpose of establishing a vaccine institution, for promoting the practice in every part of this extensive empire. Thus the English, at length, as well as other Europeans, have established their claim, which, though last, is not the least, on the gratitude of the Chinese.

"As the small-pox, in China, has usually been attended with most fatal effects, there is little doubt that the same willingness which has manifested itself at Canton, to receive so mild and effectual a substitute, will be felt in every province of that populous country; and the more so, as public confidence *there* is not likely to be shaken by that kind of illiberal and undignified opposition which has been so industriously employed elsewhere."

While we cannot but admire *this* departure of the *Chinese* from their usual obstinacy in favour of their ancient customs, what opinion can we entertain of the obstinacy of those Englishmen, who, contrary to all sound reasoning and the strongest evidence, continue to oppose vaccination, and keep afloat the destructive contagion of the small-pox, by which they *annually* doom thousands of their countrymen to an untimely grave!!!

out Germany, France, and Switzerland. In the beginning of last year, the small-pox was very prevalent at Lausanne, and proved fatal to several persons; but not one of those who had been vaccinated was infected by it, notwithstanding many of them lived in the same rooms, and even slept in the same beds, with those labouring under the small-pox.

"At Bern, Neufchatel, Basle, &c. *the cow-pock has superseded the small-pox;* and it is *only in the accounts from England* that I hear of the ravages of this terrible malady." (Extract of a letter from Dr. Reeve, dated October 10th, 1805. — See the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, for January 1806.)

"It is with the greatest pleasure that I comply with your wishes, in giving you an account of the state of vaccination, together with my opinion on the disrepute into which it seems to have fallen in England; of which the public newspapers, and the private account from Norwich which you read to me, afford a melancholy example.

"It is difficult and unnecessary to enumerate all the institutions which have been established in Germany, for promoting vaccination. *I know none* of its governments that have not encouraged, and, as far as possible, ordered its adoption. Every ecclesiastical court, and each individual clergyman, has taken some steps concerning it. Several crowned heads, among whom are the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia, have submitted their own children to this beneficial operation. Innumerable books, sermons, catechisms, popular dialogues, &c. &c. have been published; copper-plates, with wax figures, representing the vaccine pustule, have been distributed; and, for these last three years, I do not know a single line, of any consequence, that has been written against the practice.

"Some few works, which had been published against it before that time, are now totally forgotten: Germany has neither *Goldsons* nor *Moseleys*. What I have said of Germany may be said of the present state of vaccination in India; as appears by letters which I have received from the principal physicians and surgeons of Bagdad, Bassora, Bombay, Madras, Goa, and Columbo.

"Private and public documents, and even the letters which I have shown you from the Bramins themselves prove, that the progress of vaccination in the British settlements is truly astonishing. Dr. Milne has inspired the Portuguese in the settlement of Goa with such confidence in the practice, that nothing can surpass the eagerness with which they adopt it. His excursions can be compared to none but those of Dr. Sacco, who goes from one town or village, in Lombardy, to another, and the children are assembled, in order to be vaccinated, *en masse*, by the ringing of the church bell." (Extract of a letter from Dr. de Carro to Dr. Reeve, dated Vienna, October 9th, 1805.—Ibid.)

Dr. de Carro is of opinion, that the adverse cases in England are owing to some error. He says, "*In the year* 1804, *only two children died of the small-pox at Vienna, and even these did not belong to the town.* This year we have been less fortunate. Six or seven children have died of the disorder; but this number is insignificant, when compared with the mortality before the introduction of the cow-pock.

"Vaccination was introduced into Vienna in 1801: its effects in diminishing the mortality of the small-pox are evident, by comparing the number of deaths since that period with the average of the preceding ten years. From 1791 to 1802, inclusive, the deaths were *eight hundred and thirty-five;* in 1801, they were *one hundred and sixty-four;* in 1802, they were *sixty-one;* in 1803, they were *twenty-seven;* and, in 1804, only *two.*"

The following report carries such irresistible conviction of the safety and efficacy of the Jennerian practice, that we think we cannot do better, by way of conclusion to this short statement of a few of the facts cursorily selected from the numerous publications in favour of the vaccine inoculation, than to lay it before our readers.

Report of the Medical Council of the Royal Jennerian Society on the Subject of Vaccine Inoculation.

The Medical Council of the Royal Jennerian Society, having been informed that various cases had occurred, which excited prejudices against Vaccine Inoculation, and tended to check the progress of that important discovery in this kingdom, appointed a Committee of Twenty-five of their Members to inquire, not only into the nature and truth of such cases, but also into the evidence respecting Instances of Small-Pox, alleged to have occurred twice in the same person.

In consequence of this reference, the Committee made diligent inquiry into the history of a number of cases, in which it was supposed that Vaccination had failed to prevent the Small-Pox, and also of such cases of Small-Pox, as were stated to have happened subsequently to the natural or inoculated Small-Pox.

In the course of their examination the Committee learned, that opinions and assertions had been advanced and circulated, which charged the Cow-Pox with rendering patients liable to particular diseases, frightful in their appearance, and hitherto unknown, and judging such opinions to be connected with the question as to the efficacy of the practice, they thought it incumbent upon them to examine also into the validity of these injurious statements respecting Vaccination.

After a very minute investigation of these subjects, the result of their inquiries has been submitted to the Medical Council; and from the Report of the Committee it appears:

I. That most of the cases which have been brought forward as instances of the failure of Vaccination to prevent the Small-Pox, and which have been the subjects of public attention and conversation, are either wholly unfounded or grossly misrepresented.

II. That some of the cases are now allowed, by the very persons who first related them, to have been erroneously stated.

III. That the statements of such of those cases as are published, have, for the most part, been carefully investigated, ably discussed, and fully refuted, by different writers on the subject.

IV. That notwithstanding the most incontestable proofs of such misrepresentations, a few medical men have persisted in repeatedly bringing the same unfounded and refuted reports, and misrepresentations, before the public, thus perversely and disingenuously labouring to excite prejudices against Vaccination.

V. That in some printed accounts adverse to Vaccination, in which the writers had no authenticated facts to support the opinions they advanced, nor any reasonable arguments to maintain them, the subject has been treated with indecent and disgusting levity; as if the good or evil of society were fit objects for sarcasm and ridicule.

VI. That when the practice of Vaccination was first introduced and recommended by Dr. Jenner, many persons, who had never seen the effects of the vaccine fluid on the human system, who were almost wholly unacquainted with the history of Vaccination, the characteristic marks of the genuine vesicle, and the cautions necessary to be observed in the management of it, and were therefore incompetent to decide whether patients

were properly vaccinated or not, nevertheless ventured to inoculate for the Cow-Pox.

VII. That many persons have been declared duly vaccinated, when the operation was performed in a very negligent and unskilful manner, and when the inoculator did not afterwards see the patients, and therefore could not ascertain whether infection had taken place or not; and that to this cause are certainly to be attributed many of the cases adduced in proof of the inefficacy of Cow-Pox.

VIII. That some cases have been brought before the Committee, on which they could form no decisive opinion, from the want of necessary information as to the regularity of the preceding Vaccination, or the reality of the subsequent appearance of the Small-Pox.

IX. That it is admitted by the Committee, that a few cases have been brought before them, of persons having the Small-Pox, who had apparently passed through the Cow-Pox in a regular way.

X. That cases, supported by evidence equally strong, have been also brought before them, of persons who, after having once regularly passed through the Small-Pox, either by inoculation or natural infection, have had that disease a second time.

XI. That in many cases, in which the Small-Pox has occurred a second time, after inoculation or the natural disease, such recurrence has been particularly severe, and often fatal; whereas, when it has appeared to occur after Vaccination, the disease has generally been so mild, as to lose some of its characteristic marks, and even sometimes to render its existence doubtful.

XII. That it is a fact well ascertained, that, in some particular states of certain constitutions, whether vaccine or variolous matter be employed, a local disease only will be excited by Inoculation, the constitution remaining unaffected; yet that matter taken from such local Vac-

cine or Variolous Pustule is capable of producing a general and perfect disease.

XIII. That if a person, bearing the strongest and most indubitable marks of having had the Small-Pox, be repeatedly inoculated for that disease, a pustule may be produced, the matter of which will communicate the disease to those who have not been previously infected.

XIV. That, although it is difficult to determine precisely the number of exceptions to the practice, the Medical Council are fully convinced that the failure of Vaccination, as a preventive of the Small-Pox, is a very rare occurrence.

XV. That of the immense number who have been vaccinated in the Army and Navy, in different parts of the United Kingdom, and in every quarter of the globe, scarcely any instances of such failure have been reported to the Committee, but those which are said to have occurred in the Metropolis, or its Vicinity.

XVI. That the Medical Council are fully assured, that in very many places, in which the Small-Pox raged with great violence, the disease has been speedily and effectually arrested in its progress, and in some populous cities wholly exterminated, by the practice of Vaccination.

XVII. That the practice of Inoculation for the Small-Pox, on its first introduction into this country, was opposed and very much retarded, in consequence of misrepresentations and arguments drawn from assumed facts, and of miscarriages arising from the want of correct information, similar to those now brought forward against Vaccination, so that nearly fifty years elapsed before Small-Pox inoculation was fully established.

XVIII. That, by a reference to the Bills of Mortality, it will appear that, to the unfortunate neglect of Vaccination, and to the prejudices raised against it, we may, in a great measure, attribute the loss of nearly two thousand lives by the Small-Pox, in this Metropolis alone, within the present year.

XIX. That the few instances of failure, either in the inoculation of the Cow-Pox, or of the Small-Pox, ought not to be considered as objections to either practice, but merely as deviations from the ordinary course of nature.

XX. That if a comparison be made between the preservative effects of Vaccination, and those of Inoculation for the Small-Pox, it would be necessary to take into account the greater number of persons who have been vaccinated within a given time: as it is probable that, within the last Seven years, nearly as many persons have been inoculated for the Cow-Pox, as were ever inoculated for the Small-Pox, since the practice was introduced into this kingdom.

XXI. That, from all the facts which they have been able to collect, it appears to the Medical Council, that the Cow-Pox is generally mild and harmless in its effects; and that the few cases, which have been alleged against this opinion, may be fairly attributed to peculiarities of constitution.

XXII. That many well-known cutaneous diseases, and some scrophulous complaints, have been represented as the effects of Vaccine Inoculation, when in fact they originated from other causes, and in many instances occurred long after Vaccination; and that such diseases are infinitely less frequent after Vaccination, than after either the natural or inoculated Small-Pox.

Having stated these facts, and made these observations, the Medical Council cannot conclude their Report upon a subject so highly important and interesting to all classes of the community, without making this solemn Declaration;

That, in their opinion, founded on their own individual experience, and the information which they have been able to collect from that of others, mankind have already derived great and incalculable benefit from the discovery of Vaccination: and that it is their full belief,

that the sanguine expectations of advantage and security, which have been formed from the Inoculation of the Cow-Pox, will be ultimately and completely fulfilled.

(SIGNED)

EDWARD JENNER, M.D. *President.*

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JOHN RING, V.P.
JOSEPH ADAMS, M.D.
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C. R. AIKIN
WM. BABINGTON, M.D.
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ROBERT WILLAN, M.D.
ALLEN WILLIAMS
JAMES WILSON
J. YELLOLY, M.D.

JANUARY 2d, 1806.

JOHN WALKER,
Secretary to the Council.

*** *It may perhaps be necessary to observe that the above Signatures comprehend the Names of those Gentlemen only, who, at that time, happened to form the Medical Council of the Royal Jennerian Society.—A Certificate, however, will shortly appear before the Public, signed by the principal Physicians, Surgeons, &c. of the Metropolis.*

FINIS.

Swan and Son, printers, 76, Fleet Street.